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AGAWAM

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

Coronavirus pandemic mars 2020

STORY OF THE YEAR

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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Without question, the coronavirus pandemic is the story of the year. It has dominated the existence of mankind for the overwhelming majority of 2020. It has cancelled or changed the traditions we hold dear, it has crippled businesses, and it has taken lives.

It has also changed daily lives and habits and the course of education.

In Agawam, there have been more than 1,300 cases of the coronavirus with a population of more than 28,000 people in 2020. With the current surge, there is likely going to be more before the pandemic ends, though a vaccine has been rolling out since the middle of December.

Agawam's public schools were shut down in late March, and remained shut down for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Not long after the schools were initially shut down, a series of delays ensued for the playing of high school spring sports, and eventually, the season was fully cancelled.

Graduation was the next thing to go, as a tradition graduation, normally held at Springfield Symphony Hall, was ruled out because the large number of people involved in the ceremony could not occupy the same building in close proximity for long periods of time.

Agawam school officials in conjunction with the health department, came out with a drive-thru concept where the rows of graduates were a large row of cars as seniors graduated high school with their immediate families in their own vehicles spanned apart. The ceremony was

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Wearing masks became commonplace throughout the community during the pandemic. FILE PHOTO

Teachers made education work in 2020

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – During the past year, COVID-19 shut down the school systems abruptly and required teachers and students to switch to remote learning before switching to a hybrid model. All schools shut down in March to stop the spread of the virus and keep kids safe.

The schools in town conducted remote learning during the lockdown in March, and teachers had to set up their homes as classrooms. Students would need

NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR

to spend more time in front of a screen than ever before.

This was a setback for many students as some people could not learn as well through a screen, especially young learners and students in special education programs.

While schools have since adapted to the new way of teaching, it was a completely new way

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Vanessa Beckwith teaches her students via Zoom. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Auer tackles final challenge as health director

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – Health Director Kathleen Auer has been in her current post for more than three years, but was thrust in the limelight during the pandemic-marred year she was recently highlighted in headlines and thrust into the spotlight during the shutdown and overall pandemic.

Auer has been quietly serving the town and had given notice a

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

year ago in 2019 saying 2020 was going to be her final year.

"It seems that 2020 knew that I was leaving and decided to throw something my way before I left," Auer said. "There was a lot of added work this year and it's not over yet. The next person that steps

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A look back at 2020

AGAWAM – The coronavirus pandemic took center stage throughout the country and the world. In Agawam, residents had to adjust to life in a pandemic environment. Activities were limited, wearing masks and social distancing became a norm, but as you can see, residents in town at-

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

tempted various parts of normalcy throughout the year.

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The coronavirus pandemic quieted the halls of Agawam High School during the end of the 2019-2020 school year. FILE PHOTOS



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Scarf donations sought

AGAWAM – Loaves and Fishes is in desperate need of White socks, Scarves, Hats and Gloves. Most especially since COVID-19 hit us all last March, the number of folks in need of extra help in our communities has increased dramatically. You may bring your generous donations to the Sacred Heart Parish Center at 1061 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills. There will be a basket in the entry way just as you come through the first set of doors. Donations will be accepted through February 2021. Please call Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN with any questions at 786.8200 ext. 3.

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originally set to take place at Six Flags New England's large rear parking lot, but logistics forced it to be move to Agawam Junior High School. The ceremony took place almost on time, as it was held in early June, about the usual time period graduation is held in town.

Remote learning concluded in town in late June and students went home for the summer with very little activity available as people were advised to stay home and only interact with their own households.

In the initial time period following the pandemic, social distance became a buzz words as people were advised to stay at least six feet away from people not in their immediate household. Soon enough, Gov. Charlie Baker invoked a statewide mask mandate, forcing the wearing of face coverings when out in public places, such as grocery stores.

Grocery stores were also in the limelight, as Agawam's two main stores, Stop & Shop and Geisslers found themselves running out of basic necessities, including toilet paper, paper towels, and sanitizing products, including hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes. Hand soap was also in short supply. Grocery stores also found various supply chain issues, including pasta, chicken, and other meats due to the pandemic, which shutdown various farms and factories when out-breaks occurred.

In the summer, activity was very quiet, through social distancing was made possible at School Street Park and the Rotary Club did hold its summer concert series. However, due to guidance of health officials at the local and state levels, that's the most activity that occurred there. The spray park was closed and most sports were not allowed, including summer soccer, basketball, and lacrosse.

Agawam's biggest taxpayer, Six Flags, also was forced to close most of its business for the year, as well as its annual tradition at Halloween known as Fright Fest.

Plans to move students back into the classroom also had to be stalled, as the pandemic continued and a lack of a vaccine still made it dangerous for students and teachers to be placed in a classroom in large numbers. A very



The pandemic ruined graduation in 2020, relegating the regular indoor ceremony to a drive-thru event at Agawam Junior High School. FILE PHOTO

narrow vote of the school committee (4-3) okayed a return to school through a hybrid model. Students utilizing the hybrid model attend school two days per week, and do remote learning the other three days.

Fall sports would return, but student-athletes were subject to many rule changes and mask-wearing in order to be allowed back on the field. The season was also abbreviated and athletes were limited to playing against a small circle of schools, known as a geographic "bubble." The Western Mass. and state tournaments were also eliminated.

Later in the fall, a second surge, projected by many health experts, occurred, and Agawam's low case numbers ballooned from around 600. As the year ended, a vaccine has begun rolling out, but many Agawam businesses are suffering as the governor rolled back capacity levels until the surge of cases goes down and more individuals are vaccinated from the virus.

Other impacts to the community have in-

cluded shutdown of Agawam Town Hall to regular traffic, the closure of summer camp, and the lack of ability to regularly interact with local government due to remote and Zoom meetings held by the Agawam City Council and Agawam School Committee.

Flu vaccine deadline extended for students

AGAWAM – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health had set the deadline of Dec. 31, 2020, for remote and in-person students to receive a flu vaccination unless they have obtained a medical or religious exemption. The deadline has been extended through Feb. 28, 2021. Learn more about the flu vaccine, view videos and resources.

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TEACHERS ■ from page 1

of teaching that they weren't used to and unexperienced with. Teachers had to learn new skills and programs in order to properly lead their classes on Zoom and Google Classrooms. Superintendent Shelia Hoffman recognized the work of all her teachers in the district for adjusting to such adverse conditions.

Among the outstanding work, Hoffman said Rhonda Typrowicz a special education teacher at Phelps Elementary, Tara Witte a fourth-grade teacher at Robinson Park Elementary, and Vanessa Beckwith a kindergarten teacher at Clark Elementary did outstanding work.

Each teacher said adapting to virtual learning was especially hard for the young learners because it was sudden, unknown, and planning and methods has to be changed and adjusted. Young students at this age are learning how to read, write, do basic math, and how to socially interact, it's difficult to do those things behind a screen.

Each teacher had to transfer their teaching plan and curriculum to fit online learning, and this was a difficult task as not everything typically used in the lesson plans are available online.

"A large difference between Elementary and upper grades is that most of our textbooks do not have digital versions so we couldn't just go in and assign work, we had to find activities, create activities, or purchase; with our own money, activities that had been created by other professionals. Educators were searching tirelessly for meaningful content," Typrowicz said. "From a teacher standpoint, we had to create all of the content that was being assigned online. This was an exhausting challenge for many of us."

The same struggle of finding meaningful lessons was true for both Witte and Beckwith, certainly when they had to add in helping parents and guardians as they step into their children's teacher role for a temporary time. They each had to re-work the way they teach, they had to adapt to the fact that they could not give everyone instant feedback, and normal work seemed to take much longer because of the hindering effect screens can have.

"It was super stressful being tossed in so fast. I'm decent using technology so I spent extra time researching, I watched how-to videos, and worked hours trying to plan things out," Beckwith said. "I had to coordinate with many people, more people than a usual workday since we tried to divide and conquer with the students. We all wanted to provide them the best opportunity in the given situation."

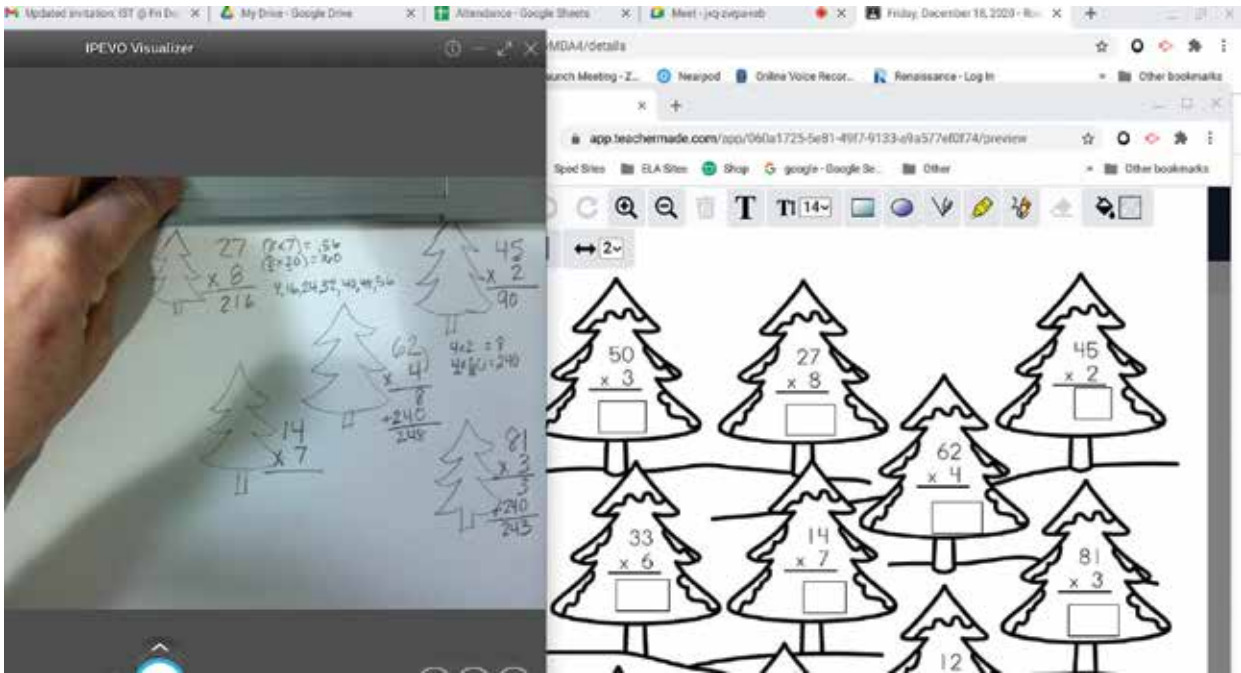
One of the things that each teacher expressed was that they missed their students, and they missed not being in the school building. Witte explained that in March when she told her students she'd see them in two weeks she didn't expect that would be the last time she saw or spoke to them for the year. Though she and other teachers were hopeful that the remote learning would be temporary, they quickly realized that the year would end online. With this realization teachers worked on changing their lesson plans, curriculums, and options of teaching for the remote and hybrid model of the Fall semester.

The summer months allowed teachers to better prepare for the upcoming semester, and it allowed them to learn more techniques for online learning and teaching.

"A big part of last year's stress came with the unknown. This year, we have a somewhat better idea of what to expect," Witte said. "I think that with the hybrid model, being able to get to know many students in our class, in person, has been helpful this year. I was worried about starting school fully remote, because that community and relationship building piece of teaching is so important." There have been noticeable differences between remote schooling in March compared to the new school year.

There were a few things that helped to make the transition to the new school year go smoothly; including the fact that teachers knew what to expect for the new year to some degree and were able to properly and thoroughly prepare for the year. Also parents are making sure that their children are online when they're supposed to, and most of the classrooms have two adults now to help with students learning. "I believe having two adults in the room with smaller sizes is great for the students and in such a difficult year, it provides comfort to each other and the students alike," Beckwith said. "Many parents wanted their children to return and have tried to get them to participate virtually or in person. Also, staff collaboration has been fantastic."

Not only were teachers aware that school would be



Beckwith shows a lesson being conducted online.

starting remote in the fall, but they were given options on how they wanted to teach during the semester. The school building were not open to students but they were open to staff and teachers, so they were allowed to enter the building and teach online from their classroom. Teaching in the classroom would mean that they had more supplies than at home, students would recognize the room and feel a sense of comfort, and it's a familiar area for the teachers themselves. Teachers could also choose to continue working from home if they were concerned about leaving their bubble.

Witte explained that teachers were offered to live-stream their classes as well, and while that idea made her bit nervous she decided to take the risk and start the first day with a live-stream.

"For me, live-streaming has been very helpful. It allows me to teach a live lesson to all of my students, whether they are in school with me or learning remotely that day. I am able to answer questions and help them through their struggles in real time," Witte said. "Through live-streaming, my class feels whole and connected and students are able to communicate and collaborate with all of their classmates rather than just the cohort they are in."

While live-streaming required a lot of work and is tiring, Witte feels that it greatly benefits her entire class better than other remote and hybrid methods.

Teachers can also use recorded videos as students can pause and replay the videos as much as they need to understand the lesson and concept that they're learning. These recorded lessons are posted daily and provide detailed step by step instructions on new concepts, students can also always go back to the video days later for a refresher if needed.

"The ability to do this can be helpful for the reluctant or shy student who doesn't want to ask for things to be repeated because they might feel embarrassed," Typrowicz said. "At the elementary level remote learning is very challenging. While some students are excelling remotely, most are not because it's difficult for them to teach themselves these new concepts."

Although this new way of teaching is challenging all teachers are learning ways to adapt and help their students as best they can, especially if they're still remote learning.

Teachers are also working with each other to develop lesson plans, strategies, and ways to help all students. Many teachers have teams of other staff members that are helping them to make remote and hybrid adaptations to learning. For those students learning remotely currently, parents have been collaborating and communicating well with teachers to help their kids learn.

"Many parents wanted their children to return and have tried to get them to participate virtually or in person. Also, staff collaboration has been fantastic. We've helped each other with creating lessons and working through technological bugs together on the day we have a just limited presentation time," Beckwith said. "Every staff member is working harder than ever before. I know I'm talking to colleagues, parents, and students, well before and after the contractual time."



Rhonda Typrowicz, a special education teacher at Phelps Elementary, gives a lesson via Zoom.

Teachers have been given many options and access to platforms to help teach their remote and hybrid students, and they've been given choices of how they want to teach during this unprecedented time. The district has been helpful in giving them resources and options of where to work, these things along with the ability to accommodate their students no matter their learning style; have made this semester successful. Despite the switches from hybrid to remote when numbers are too high or to be cautious of specific transmissions, teachers are able to go right into a different form of learning because they've had the experience and they have the access.

Registration date changed for night school

AGAWAM – In case of an increase of COVID cases after the holiday break and in an abundance of precaution, the Agawam Night School registration dates and calendar have changed.

Registration for Night school is now Tuesday, March 16 and Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

If the number of COVID cases have significantly rescinded and if it is approved by the Agawam Health Department and our Superintendent, Mrs. Sheila Hoffman, our Adult Education Program will not be remote. The first day of classes would be March 23, 2021 and the last class would be June 3, 2021. Classes will run on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

If we are not able to have classes at high school and it is scheduled as remote the start and end date will remain the same. Remote classes are self-driven. Students will be required to complete 30 hours and pass the course with a 65 or better.

Friends of Agawam Library announce annual meeting

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library wishes to announce that it will be holding its annual meeting of members on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 at 11 a.m. in the main reading room of the Agawam Public Library. Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of in person attendees is limited to 10 people. This meeting is open to the public by registration and attendance via Zoom. The election of board members will be held at this meeting. All members who have paid their 2021 dues will be eligible to vote.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the annual Board of Directors meeting

will be held to elect officers for the year. Again, due to restrictions, this meeting is open to the public by registration and attendance via Zoom. Voting at this meeting is limited to members of the Board of Directors.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends organization may pay his or her dues by mail before the meeting to become eligible to vote. Payments can be mailed to: Friends of the Agawam Public Library, PO BOX 478 Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478. Please visit the Agawam Public Library's website calendar to register for the event. Registered participants will be sent the Zoom meeting link.

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

It is time to show our resilience

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

If you pay attention to global affairs, you know that increasing numbers of people believe U.S. leadership in the world is coming to an end and the West more broadly is being eclipsed. I think these predictions are exaggerated, but they are not without some basis. Our challenges have grown. It is time for us to re-establish ourselves by showing our capacity for change and adaptation.

The biggest external challenge we face, of course, is the rise of China and the competition it offers to the democratic model. It is not just that its wealth, military power, and leverage around the world have all grown. It is also true that China has had an astonishing rise, pulling millions of people out of poverty, drawing attention for its innovation and infrastructure development, and building one of the world's leading economies.

This is an important point. You do not build prestige abroad by collapsing at home. In a very real sense, you cannot separate domestic and foreign policy, especially when you are the U.S. The world pays close attention to how we deal with internal problems, and our actions within our borders profoundly affect our standing and leverage as we assert global leadership.

So how do we reenergize our global role? We begin, of course, at home, by bringing the pandemic under control, reinvigorating our own economy, and re-committing to the rule of law, to basic, long-established democratic processes, and to the core values of justice, fairness, and opportunity for all our citizens.

Then, I would argue, we need to return to the basics, which have taken a beating in recent years. We built our pre-eminence by using an international approach during the post-World War II period, working skillfully with European and other allies to lead the West. If we try to lead by ourselves, the task is far more difficult than if we join with European allies, Japan, other Asian countries, and allies in South America and elsewhere.

We also must restore basic democratic values—promotion of democracy, treating people decently, opposing corruption and abuse of human rights—to a prominent role in our foreign policy. Effective foreign policy requires a lot of components, but the moral dimension is key to making our leadership more attractive and more potent.

Obviously, American military power is part of our strength. People pay attention to us in no small part because of that power. But they also pay attention because of our willingness to work with others. In order to enhance our appeal, we need a well-functioning national security system with expanded arms control agreements. We have to counter Iran wherever and whenever possible in a manner that does not risk war in the Middle East. And we must identify and oppose the world's bad actors by exposing their weaknesses, corruption, and dictatorial tendencies.

I would also argue that we need to lead the fight on climate change. All the other issues we face are important, but this one is existential, and we do not have much time to get it right.

Finally, to help the U.S. revitalize its place in the world, we will need strong, capable, realistic and professional officials filling the key roles. That is true in the intelligence community, where unbiased and clear-eyed knowledge of events and other leaders is vital if we are to navigate the course of events and work with (or against) world leaders. And it is true in diplomacy, economics, the national security apparatus and elsewhere, where depth, knowledge and expertise are vital.

RESILIENCE | page 6



Gardening questions to end the year

This question came to me from a reader who enjoyed the most recent gardening column that appeared in the Barre Gazette: "I loved what you had to say about your Babci's Christmas cactus. Mine just finished blooming. Could you please pass along some detailed advice so that I can have a repeat of this year's breathtaking blooms next Christmas?"

I am so happy you enjoyed last week's article. I'd be more than happy to give you some tips to make your Christmas cactus bloom abundantly next year! First, concentrate on plant care. Once the plant has finished blooming it will go into a period of rest, and will need very little water for nearly two months. When growth resumes in spring, water when the soil surface is dry to the touch and provide it with a dose of half-strength liquid fertilizer. Place in indirect light, an east or north facing window is best. During the summer months the plant can go outdoors as long as it is kept in filtered light. It will rest again in early fall, prior to bud set. You'll notice that it won't be as thirsty during this period, so water accordingly.

Then, consider the two environmental factors that are responsible for coaxing a Christmas cactus into bloom. The first is temperature and the second is light. If temperatures at night range between 55 and 60 degrees for a six-week period the plant will set buds regardless of day length. If temperatures run higher than that, 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness will bring about buds. Simply put the plant to bed each night from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. until buds form. If your plant sets buds and then drops them prior to full bloom it is likely due to overwatering or exposure. For this reason keep it away from drafty windows, doorways or radiators. This sounds like hard work, but is really quite simple. I'm sure you'll be delighted with breathtaking flowers next Christmas as well!

Carol has a problem with her kalanchoe. "Some of the leaves on my plants have spots of sticky sap on them. Do you know what is causing this and what I can do to prevent it?"

It's funny that you write about this particular problem with your kalanchoe! I recently saw some sap on my own plant. I had it in a mixed container of succulents over the summer and lo and behold, I brought it inside and now it has bugs. Look at

your plants closely, concentrating your attention directly above the portions covered in "sap." I almost guarantee you will find a flat, oblong-shaped, waxy-looking insect. Scales, as well as other sucking insects such as aphids or mealy bugs, excrete honeydew, a sweet concentration of plant sap. If left on the leaves long enough, sooty mold will form on the honey dew, coating them in "black dust." Besides being unsightly, sooty mold diminishes the plant's ability to make food. To get rid of it, treat the insect problem first by spraying with an insecticidal soap. After a month or so, examine your plants closely for additional drops of honeydew; should you find some, repeat the entire process. As with insecticides of any kind, follow the directions on the container carefully.

In the greenhouse, growers target kalanchoe flowering to begin in early December. Colors include red, yellow, orange, salmon, pink and most shades in between. Individual flowers are diminutive, but in since they are held in clusters the plant as a whole is stunning. Another attractive feature of kalanchoe is its dark, shiny green leaves, perfect as a backdrop for all those brilliantly-colored flowers and pretty in its own right when the plant isn't in bloom.

The kalanchoe needs bright indoor light. Prevent overwatering by allowing it to dry out some in between waterings. A balanced fertilizer can be applied once a month during spring and summer. To initiate flowers in time for Christmas, put the plant in a place where it will receive complete darkness for 14 hours a day beginning in mid-September. Sticking to a schedule, say from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily, will make it easier to remember. Once the plants have finished blooming, remove spent flowers and trim back foliage to encourage dense growth. New plants are easily started from stem cuttings in the spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

Tree collection set for first week of 2021

AGAWAM – The Department of Public Works is pleased to announce that Republic Services will be providing a collection of Christmas Trees during the week of Jan. 4 to 8.

*Christmas trees will be collected on the same day as scheduled trash collection. Please be aware that the regular trash truck will not be collecting trees, a separate truck will be running for the collection of trees.

*Christmas trees 7' or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7am of the collection day listed above.

*Trees in plastic bags will not be collected.

*It is not the responsibility of the hauler to dig out trees buried in the snow due to plowing or excessive snowfall prior to the scheduled collection days.

*In the event of a snow delay during the scheduled collection week, residents should make alternative arrangements to recycle their trees at the Bondi's Island Landfill. Collection routes for trees will not be re-scheduled.

*Residents may dispose of trees prior to or after the scheduled collection days at the Bondi's Island Landfill.



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Writing contest deadline extended

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring a writing competition for all Agawam Public School students. The topic is “Facing the Challenges of the Coronavirus - How did you do it?” Entries will be accepted from October 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020, and the winners will be chosen by members of the Agawam Cultural Council. Monetary prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winning entries. The requirements for entry into this competition can be found on the ACC website and by contacting the librarians for each of the schools in Agawam. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Augusti at (413) 241-7196 or by email

to: maryjane.augusti@gmail.com. For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the current pandemic stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, at: www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

RESILIENCE ■ from page 4

To be blunt, we have become less respected for our competence, professionalism, and skill over the last four years, and while experts can sometimes become too narrowly focused, highly-regarded representatives abroad can be among the biggest assets we deploy. It used to be that, in any international forum, it was almost instinctive to turn to the U.S. for leadership: the first question on the minds of allies was what the U.S. thought and planned to do. That is less of-

ten the case, and I do not think the world is better off as a result. We have a lot of work to do to reassert our leadership, starting with strengthening our own democracy. Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

DIRECTOR ■ from page 1

into the role will need to connect with people for COVID operations aside from regular town work that's already expected.” As of right now there isn't a specific person in line for the position, thought there were a few applications that were reviewed. Auer explained that she doesn't believe someone was picked yet as she didn't meet or help to transition the position to someone. Auer retired on Friday, Dec. 18. She said the pandemic was not her reason for retiring, it just happened to correlate by coincidence. Though COVID-19 did add more work to Auer's plate, she needed to stay up to date on case numbers and state regulations. “We did our best to give accurate information, that's the most important thing. It's always public education, whether it's residents or businesses,” Auer said. “There was a lot of fear and we tried to battle that by keeping people informed.” She further explains that there have been many new duties added to her role due to the virus, as she has to connect with different groups and people daily. This includes staying in contact and dealing with five different state agencies for COVID-19 information and updates to guidelines and regulations. Auer further explained that she was on calls with COVID-19 command centers weekly to keep up with the changes that were constantly issues. There were changes and updates to guideline for business, residents, and the general public two to three times a week. While keeping up with the changes and case numbers was difficult, she also spoke with the Superintendent of Schools Shelia Hoffman; every day to talk about cases, positive tests, and make sure that all numbers were accurate. Auer also worked closely with Mayor William Sapelli throughout the pandemic. He helped her and her department to have the necessary resources needed. “When we were shut down in the beginning, the mayor was right here with us, he was working every day and keeping in contact with us,” Auer said. “He made sure that we had anything and everything we needed, form equipment to resources. He's been amazing throughout this.” Another added duty Auer received was figuring out how to put on and manage a separate COVID waiting room in schools. In order to open schools, the state required there be an isolation area for students and staff who showed symptoms during the school day, this was paid for by CARES Act funds, but it added work to Auer's desk as it has to operate throughout the in-person schooling. When schools first opened EMT's and paramedics were manning these separate areas for the first month of school while more nurses were hired. The department is in charge of school nurses and hired 20 new nurses for the schools so the COVID area was properly staffed. This created the need for scheduling nurses, setting up pay for them,

and stocking each school's COVID waiting room. The additional work doesn't end there. Auer's staff were responsible for doing contract tracing. A lot of that work fell on the public health nurse, Sherry Petrucci. Petrucci is the person to contact about a close contact or positive case, and she works 24 hours a day for this reason. “Regardless of the time, whether it's during working hours or in the middle of the night, she'll get calls about positive tests,” Auer said. “She then finds out all the information, and contacts everyone else who needs to be aware for the added case or potential case. There's been added work to everyone, and she's done an amazing job.” Auer expressed that COVID-19 added many more duties than she'd have in a typical year, the virus also made it hard to conduct typical work methods as well. With the shutdown to restaurants and the extensive guidelines that were given periodically, she had to put aside inspections and permit processes for a while until she could find a safe way for them to be conducted. There were some businesses that were unable to open and operate under the given restrictions and guidelines, she had to keep track of who was able to open and who wasn't. Auer kept open communication with businesses and discussed guidelines with them every time there was a change or update. Auer also received the help of the fire and police department when their assistance was necessary. “I want to emphasize that the other departments had to do a lot too,” said Auer. “Parks and recreation and the library had to change they way the function, in fact parks and recreation will be taking over the responsibility of scheduling for nurses, which is very helpful. The fire department was great and the police were always there if we needed them, legal reviewed cease and desists, our procurement officer order all our PPE and funding applications. The IT department and the Senior Center stepped up to keep communications open and connecting with the people they needed to. Every department had to step up and adjust, and i think they all did an amazing job.” Auer said the new director will definitely encounter COVID-19 responsibilities as the virus has not dwindled during the year, though there's currently talk of a vaccine and the State is working on a plan to get the vaccine circulated to towns. “In 2021 I'll definitely be here, whether it's at local health departments or a large events like how we held testing sites,” Auer said, “It's quite different when you're trying to do a whole town with a population of 28,000. We're not sure when the state will distribute it.” While Auer is certain the town will see a vaccine next year, she will not be the one in charge of monitoring its distribution.



The mobile COVID-19 testing site at HCC will continue operating through March 2021. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Free COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until March 31

HOLYOKE — Free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health. Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave. HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer. More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread> Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Home of the Cowboys

7. “Hawaii Five-O” actor McBride

10. Most aged

12. Fitted with a shoe

13. Courteously

14. They form over cuts

15. Western Alaskan river

16. Aggressive men

17. Farm animal

18. Young woman (French)

19. Sixth month of Hebrew calendar

21. Short cry

22. State capital

27. Rural delivery

28. “Twilight Zone” creator

33. Gigabyte

34. Flammable

hydrocarbon

36. Supervises flying

37. An actor who plays a principal role

38. Furnace for pottery

39. Fall back

40. Afrikaans word for language

41. Chinese city

44. Fleshy

45. Inventor

48. Taxis

49. A citizen of Spain

50. Important age for aging workers (abbr.)

51. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Chinese mountain range

2. Romanian city

3. Fishermen cast it

4. Shelter from wind

5. Sign language

6. Pigpen

7. Make sore

8. Flat metal shelves

9. Forms that say who you are

10. Cigar lovers’ necessity

11. Popular cooking ingredient

12. Skin covering the head

14. Unshakable

17. Exclamation meaning “Finally!”

18. One of the wise men’s gifts

20. Take away from

23. In accordance with the law

24. Nicole Kidman’s husband

25. NY Giants legend

26. Utilize

29. Beloved Hollywood alien

30. Unwell

31. More destitute

32. Grinded together

35. Sun up in New York

36. Italian-made cars

38. Most sacred site in Islam

40. Rip apart

41. Go in a specified direction

42. Freshwater mussel genus

43. “__ the Man” Musical

44. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)

45. West coast time zone

46. Mimic

47. You can get one in summer

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2020



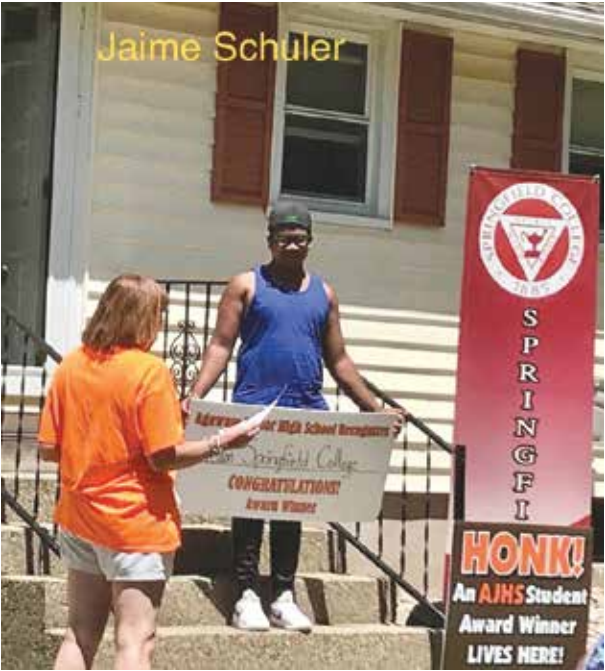
Cafeteria staff prepare lunches for pickup. Food was served in a drive-thru format and made available to families who needed meals for students during remote learning. FILE PHOTOS



In early August, a car runs into the entranceway at Stop & Shop. Due to the pandemic, it was the only entrance and exit being used by the store at the time.



The Agawam Spray Park was closed throughout the 2020 spring and summer due to the high-risk of virus spread by having a crowd at the park.



Rather than the tradition awards ceremony at Agawam Junior High School, a rolling convoy of teachers went from house-to-house to give awards to the students at the end of the school year.



Social distancing was possible at School Street Park and a few of the Rotary Club-sponsored concerts were held in July.



Michael Santore, the Salutatorian of the Class of 2020, stands with his family. Immediate families were allowed to be in a car with students at the graduation event.



Graduation was held at Agawam Junior High School in June this year instead of at Symphony Hall.



Agawam's Little League season cancelled due to the pandemic, though the league is planning to be back with full action in 2021.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2020



Creating masks in all fashions became big business in 2020.



Joseph Mineo, a 20-year Agawam City Councilor, passed away on July 3 from cancer. Mineo is shown with his son Carmino at a 2014 swearing-in ceremony.



The September primary brought out voters, but social distancing and masks were a new requirement as well as fewer voting booths and constant sanitizing.



A massive fire started at Bondi's Island from a mulch pile resulting in smoke that traveled for miles. It took a couple of days for fire departments to get the blaze under control.



Outdoor dining became "all the rage" in 2020 as safety precautions forced businesses to try and head outside in order to bring customers in.



A Veterans Day ceremony was still held on Nov. 11 this year. Officials and veterans gathered at Veterans Green in Agawam that morning to honor vets and hang wreaths at the memorials.

SEE MORE **PHOTOS**
ON **PAGE 12**

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USDA INSP. STORE MADE TEXAS BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS	\$2.29 lb

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SPORTS

SOCCER

Santaniello taking talents to URI

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM — Senior striker and longtime standout Hope Santaniello has dreamed about becoming a member of a Division 1 college soccer team since she was a little kid. Her dream has come

true.

Santaniello last month signed her National Letter of Intent to join the women's soccer team at the University of Rhode Island during a signing ceremony held inside the Agawam High School gymnasium.

"I've dreamed of being a Divi-

sion 1 athlete since I was a little girl," Santaniello said. "I've been training extra hard for a very long time to get to this point."

A current member of the U.R.I. women's soccer team is Carrie Ellis, who lives in Hatfield.

Santaniello and Ellis were teammates on the New England Mutiny last year.

"I'm really excited to be teammates with Carrie Ellis at U.R.I.," Santaniello said. "We already have a good bond, and I can't wait to play soccer with her again."

The Mutiny, who currently play their home matches at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, was not able to field a team this past summer because of COVID-19.

The U.R.I. women's soccer coach is Megan Jessee, a former Mutiny player.

"When I stepped onto the U.R.I. soccer field and met the head coach, it felt like home to me," Santaniello said. "The school is also near the ocean and the campus is gorgeous."

Santaniello might have been the youngest player on the 2019 Mutiny squad, but she was an impact player.

"Rarely has a 16-year-old player impacted our team. I told Hope that when we signed her and she made me eat those words by scoring some big goals for us,"



Hope Santaniello in action during her senior year. She was one of the top players in the region this season.



Hope Santaniello signs her letter of intent to play soccer at the University of Rhode Island. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

SANTANIELLO | page 9

SOFTBALL

Relics able to get through 2020 season

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics, which is a Senior Softball League, that's been in existence since 1994, was faced this Spring with the possibility of their season being canceled due to the Coronavirus. With the season questionable and the Relics always concerned for player safety, the Relics worked closely with the Board of Health, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Town of Ludlow and The Fish and Game Club to be one of the few sports leagues in Western Mass to play a full schedule.

The Western Mass Relics had 176 players agree to play and fortunately not one person came down with the Coronavirus. Among the steps taken to play safely were the following:

- Temperatures were taken upon arrival. The players had to record a temperature below 100 degrees.
 - Players were required to wear masks in the field.
 - Social distancing was observed when a team was batting. Players brought lawn chairs to accomplish this.
 - There was no tagging out a player.
- All plays were considered a force play.
- Handshaking and fist pumps wasn't allowed.
 - Bats were wiped down and handled by the barrel.
 - New balls were frequently changed.
 - Spectators weren't allowed initially, but later in the season were allowed to watch the game from the parking lot.

The Western Mass Relics are looking forward to the 2021 season and welcome all new players. For further information go to their website: westermassrelics.org.



The Western Mass. Relics, a softball league for senior, had one of the few successful campaigns in 2020 with no cases of coronavirus during its season. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



More than 170 players were able to be a part of the league in 2020.

WINTER UPDATE

Rollback will 'not affect winter sports'

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In a statement released last week by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, the rollback plan by Gov. Charlie Baker will not affect winter sports.

Baker's plan decreases capacities in most businesses and other venues, as well as the indoor gathering size being shrunk to just 10 people.

Because of COVID-19 surges that have occurred over the last two months, Baker has strengthened mask mandates, and scaled back business, and has established an attempt at a curfew by closing restaurants at 9:30, shutting down alcohol sales at the same time, and issuing a stay-at-home advisory from 10 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The advisory will likely affect game times for the winter season, but the sports that will be allowed for the winter season will still go on despite the restrictions. It is also possible some of the restrictions will be lifted as the season goes on.

Tara Bennett, director of communications for the MIAA, said the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has been in touch with the MIAA regarding Baker's rollback of the "re-opening" of Massachusetts.

"The office (EEA) confirmed with the MIAA that Gov. Baker's announcement on Dec. 22 of rollbacks on certain sectors will not have an impact on high school athletics."

As a result of that confirmation, no further restrictions will be added to the EEA's release of workplace safety and re-opening standards for businesses and other entities providing youth and adult amateur sports activities.

The EEA has been responsible for issuing the

WINTER | page 9

Sports

MIAA signs deal with University Orthopedics

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) has signed a multi-year partnership with University Orthopedics to become an Official Orthopedics Provider of the MIAA. The partnership coincides with the Feb. 1 opening of University’s first Massachusetts location in Mansfield.

The partnership will initially be focused on the southeastern part of the state, with University Orthopedics supporting MIAA events taking place in Districts 7, 8 and 9. University will also serve as the Presenting Sponsor of all upcoming MIAA South Sectional Tournaments.

“We are excited to partner with an organization like the MIAA that provides such an important role in the lives of thousands of student athletes and their families. With

our new location in Mansfield, we look forward to serving these communities and growing our partnership in the years to come,” said Edward Akelman, MD, President of University Orthopedics.

“The health and safety of our Association’s 230,000 student-athletes participating at our 376 member schools is paramount to our mission,” said Bill Gaine, Executive Director of the MIAA. “The opportunity to enhance that mantra with the expertise and support of University Orthopedics is a welcomed and valued gift.” Through this partnership, University will provide video content related to safe training methods, recovery and other orthopedic health measures. The new UOI Facility is located at 10 Reservoir Street in Mansfield.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with

your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

SANTANIELLO ■ from page 8

said Mutiny owner Joe Ferrara Jr. “She is so mature physically for her age and her experience with the Mutiny will help her in college.”

According to Ferrara, the only other 16-year-old soccer players that have played for the Mutiny which was founded in 1999, are Jenny Maurer (East Longmeadow) and Danielle Dakin (Minnechaug).

Santaniello gave her thoughts about playing for the Mutiny.

“It was really an amazing opportunity for me to play for the Mutiny,” she said. “Joe, Jill (Serafino), and Jeb (Booth) are great people. When I first joined the Mutiny, I never thought I would be playing in any of the games for them. I was shocked when they told me that I would be.”

Serafino is the Mutiny General Manager and Booth is the Mutiny head coach.

The Mutiny, who finished the 2019 campaign with an 8-1-2 overall record, lost to the Lancaster Inferno in the United Women’s Soccer (U.W.S.) Eastern Conference finals at Lusitano Stadium.

Kate Howarth, who’s the Mutiny All-Time leading goal scorer and point scorer, took Santaniello under her wing. Howarth now plays for the Orlando Pride of the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL).

“Kate had a huge impact in instilling confidence in Hope,” Ferrara said. “Hope is an effort player. Many of the older players would joke how they were scared of her in drills because she would play so hard, so I expect that work ethic to continue at the next level.”

Santaniello, who’s planning on playing for the Mutiny again next summer, also had a successful soccer career at Agawam High School under coach Laura Wray-Ramos

“Coach Ramos has been a big advocate of mine,” Santaniello said. “She has really helped me a lot and I couldn’t have asked for a better high school soccer coach. We

built a very good bond and I’m really going to miss her a lot.”

After failing to qualify for the postseason tournament as a freshman, Santaniello helped the Brownies post a 29-13-3 overall record during the last three seasons.

The Brownies finished the 2018 regular season with an 11-6-1 record. After squeaking out a 3-3 win over Northampton in the quarterfinals, they lost to top-seeded Minnechaug 1-0 in overtime in the Western Mass. Division 1 semifinals.

Agawam would advance to the semifinals again the following season. Once again, their season came to an end following a loss to Minnechaug.

“It was heartbreaking losing to Minnechaug twice in the semifinals,” Santaniello said. “We did beat them during the regular season when I was a junior.”

Because of COVID-19, there was not a postseason soccer tournament held this fall. The Brownies finished their season with an 8-1 mark.

Santaniello, who only played in a handful of games as a junior, finished her high school soccer career with a total of 82 points.

“If I was not injured last year and we played a full schedule this year, I probably would’ve reached 100 career points. It would’ve been a nice accomplishment, but that wasn’t my focus,” Santaniello said. “It was a lot of fun playing high school soccer and we were a very close team this year.”

One person who looks up to Hope as a role model is her younger sister, Bella, who’s ten years old.

“My younger sister recently told my mom that she wanted to be just like me,” Hope said. “I’m going to do everything that I can do to help her get there. I love playing soccer and I’m looking forward to watching Bella play soccer in the future.”

WINTER ■ from page 8

guidance utilized by the MIAA to conduct sports safely during the coronavirus pandemic, which is hopefully nearing its end.

The EEA is mandating mask-wearing in all sport environments where it is possible to wear masks. There will also be limitations to the numbers of players and personnel allowed at basketball courts and hockey rinks during the winter season. In order to reduce potential for crowds, there will be no winter tournaments. The pandemic cancelled the end of the winter state basketball tournament last March. There has not been an MIAA-sanctioned tournament

game since that time, and it is unknown when there will be a tournament game, though the spring season is a definite possibility as a return to normalcy could be realized by June.

Winter sports in Western Massachusetts are supposed to begin for most schools following the New Year’s holiday on Jan. 4. Games could begin on or around Jan. 14. Basketball, hockey, and swimming are supposed to take place with indoor track being moved to the bubble season and wrestling could potentially take place in the spring season.

Hall of Fame announces eligible candidates for the Class of 2021

Hall of Fame Planning Two Separate Enshrinement Ceremonies in 2021 Calendar Year

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame today announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2021, including first-time nominees Doug Collins, Michael Cooper, Howard Garfinkel, Lou Henson, Paul Pierce, Val Ackerman, Yolanda Griffith and Lauren Jackson.

Returning to the ballot are fan-favorite nominees Chauncey Billups, Chris Bosh, Richard Hamilton, Bob Huggins, Ben Wallace, Chris Webber, Jay Wright, Swin Cash and Becky Hammon among others.

A first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by The Jump on ESPN, hosted by Rachel Nichols, and Class of 2021 nominee Paul Pierce. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found attached.

Following the Hall of Fame’s traditional timeline, Finalists from the North Ameri-

can and Women’s committee for the Class of 2021 will be announced in the timeframe of NBA All-Star Weekend, which is scheduled for early March. The entire Class of 2021, including those selected by the direct elect committees, will be unveiled in the timeframe of the NCAA Final Four scheduled for early April. Event details are forthcoming, and the announcement timeline is subject to change.

The Class of 2021 Enshrinement ceremony is scheduled to take place in Springfield, Mass., in September 2021. As previously announced, the Class of 2020 Enshrinement ceremony has been rescheduled and relocated due to COVID-19 and is scheduled for May 13-15, 2021 at Mohegan Sun.

Tickets for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2020 and 2021 Enshrinement ceremonies and various events surrounding the ceremonies will be on-sale at a later date. For the latest news and updates, follow @hoophall on Twitter and Instagram.

AHL season delayed to February

SPRINGFIELD – American Hockey League President and CEO Scott Howson has announced that the league’s Board of Governors has approved moving the anticipated start date of the 2020-21 season to Feb. 5, 2021, due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis.

The AHL continues to work with its member clubs to monitor developments and local guidelines in all 31 league cities. Further details regarding the 2020-21

American Hockey League season are still to be determined.

In operation since 1936, the AHL serves as the top development league for all 31 National Hockey League teams. Nearly 90 percent of today’s NHL players are American Hockey League graduates, and more than 100 honored members of the Hockey Hall of Fame spent time in the AHL in their careers.

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The fall clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. There are two sessions available. sign up for one or both. It makes a great holiday gift for friends and family members.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session (\$130 for 2 sessions). Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID

regulation for the players’ safety).

SESSION 1: MONDAYS 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, & 2/8

- Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.
- Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, & 3/15

- Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.
- Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.



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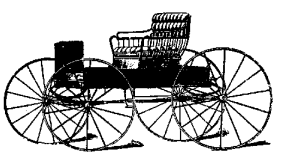
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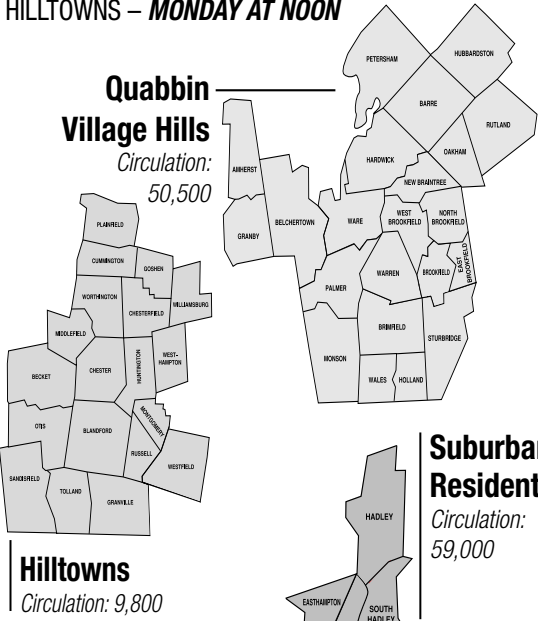
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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
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GROUNDSCKEEPER/CUSTODIAN Ludlow Housing Authority is hiring a full-time employee. Applicants must be knowledgeable and have abilities in grounds keeping, including mowers, tractors, trimmers, snow removal, plows, snow blowers, general cleaning and minor repairs. Applicants must be legally eligible to operate above listed machinery. Valid Driver's License and CORI are required. Resumes can be mailed to Ludlow Housing Authority, 114 Wilson Street, Ludlow, MA 01056. Resume cut-off date is 12:01 pm on January 18, 2021. Ludlow Housing is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF PALMER TRUCK DRIVER LABORER - OPERATIONS DIVISION

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. The Town of Palmer is accepting applications for Full Time Truck Driver - Laborer in the Department of Public Works Operations Division. We are seeking an experienced, self-motivated individual with public works knowledge to become part of our operations division. A High School Diploma, Class B Massachusetts Driver's License with air-brakes endorsement is required. A Massachusetts Hoister's License is favorable. This is a union position with an attractive starting salary, vacation, sick and personal time. Please forward resume to 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email rmcnutt@townofpalmer.com

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FOR RENT



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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Classified Advertising DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN
FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS
MONDAY AT NOON

Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Date: December 18, 2020

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing via Zoom on **Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Andrew Felix, who is seeking a Variance from the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Chapter 180, Paragraph 27 to allow for the construction of a single family home on a lot with less than the required frontage and area at the premises identified as 0 Prospect Street.

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson, ZBA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82128082145?pwd=RIIwd3Z0U0k0ckZVZWx4eT-NpdFFZz09>

Meeting ID: 821 2808 2145

Passcode: 624093

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US (New York)
12/31/2020, 01/07/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20A0076AD CITATION G.L. c. 210, § 6

In the matter of: Aubrey Alivia Parizo
To: any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:
Ryan Grealis of Agawam, MA

Amanda Agosto of Agawam, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Aubrey Alivia Grealis
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary

forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Springfield** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **01/27/2021**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 9, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin

Register of Probate

12/24, 12/31/2020, 1/07/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

Turley Publications Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Seats remain open for 'Wintersession' classes at HCC

HOLYOKE – Seats remain open for January 2021 classes at Holyoke Community College.

HCC's two-week "Wintersession" term begins Monday, Jan. 4, and runs until Friday, Jan. 15. Students can earn from one to four credits by taking a single Wintersession course that lasts from five to 10 days.

HCC is offering 24 courses during Wintersession 2021 in 18 different academic areas of study: Anthropology, Business Administration, Communication, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Science, General Studies, Geography, Law, Management, Marketing, Mathematics, Nutrition, Social Science, Sociology, and Sustainability.

Because of ongoing concerns related to COVID-19, the majority of Wintersession classes at HCC are being offered remotely.

"Wintersession at HCC is a great way to earn course credits in a short amount of time – a whole semester's worth in just 10 days," said Mark Hudgik, HCC director of Admissions. "With our remote and fully online options, students can use HCC's January classes to get ahead, get back on track, or lighten their load for spring, and they

can continue to do it from the comfort and safety of their homes."

For schedules and full course descriptions or to enroll for Wintersession 2021, please go to: www.hcc.edu/winter-session

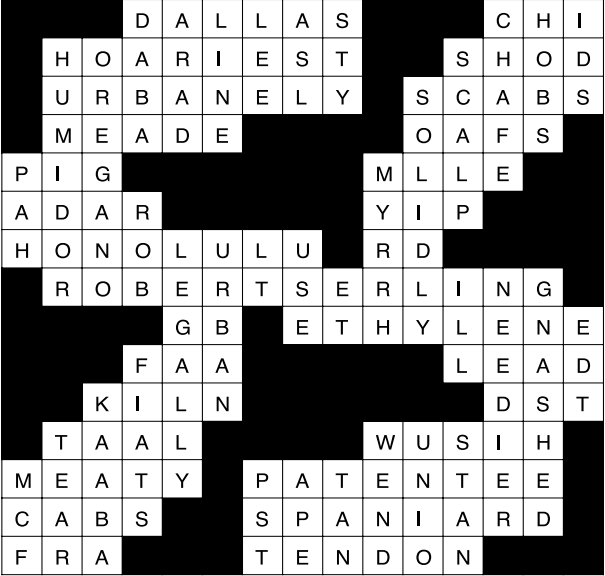
Registration is also open for spring semester classes at HCC. The spring 2021 semester begins on Monday, Jan. 25, with two additional "flexible" spring start dates on Feb. 16 and March 29.

To register for spring start classes, please go to: hcc.edu/admission.

Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednes-

days, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.



WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Grants will provide 100,000 meals for people across Western Mass.

AGAWAM – Canary Blomstrom Insurance Agency of Agawam and Wheeler & Taylor Insurance of Great Barrington are providing major support to The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Two rounds of funding, one now and a second round in the spring, will pay for about 100,000 meals for hungry residents of Western Massachusetts.

The Food Bank provides food to 165 food pantries, shelters, and meal sites in Berkshire, Franklin, Hamden, and Hampshire counties.

“We’re so grateful to Wheeler & Taylor and Canary Blomstrom for their social investment in The Food Bank’s mission to feed our neighbors in need at this critical moment,” said Executive Director Andrew Morehouse. With this support, overall we’ll be able to provide 100,000 meals to households struggling to make ends meet and put healthy food on the table.”

“It couldn’t be a worse year, more heart-breaking year, for many folks. I’m glad to know the grants will support food programs in our local area as well as regionally,” said Sandy Brodeur, president of Canary Blomstrom.

Wheeler & Taylor and Canary Blomstrom are members of GoodWorks Financial Group, a network of common-ownership insurance, real estate and financial firms.

“Thanks to The Food Bank, thousands of people in the region are able to get enough to eat every day,” said Wheeler & Taylor Insurance president J. Scott Rote. “In this time of unprecedented need, our communities need unprecedented support, and we’re glad to do our part.”

With the pandemic, demand for food

has grown exponentially. The Food Bank is serving 109,500 people a month in 2020, up 16 percent from 2019. The organization has distributed 11.1 million pounds of food from March through October, a 30 percent increase. It estimates that about one in six residents in the region, including 40,000 children, or one in four, are food-insecure.

Based in Hatfield, The Food Bank (www.foodbankwma.org) provides food to hundreds of member food pantries, shelters and meal sites in Western Massachusetts. The Food Bank does not distribute food directly to individuals (except through its Mobile Food Bank and Brown Bag Food for Elders programs). Instead, it acts as a regional clearinghouse to get nutritious food to local sites that help people in need of assistance. Established in 1871, Wheeler & Taylor Insurance is a full-service independent agency and broker that serves customers with the highest level of excellence and professionalism. Headquartered in Great Barrington, it has offices throughout the Berkshires and operates nationally through locations in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, California and Nevada. Web: www.wheelertaylor.com. Canary Blomstrom Insurance Agency offers auto and home insurance, business insurance, and individual and group life and health insurance and financial products. Its office is in the Feeding Hills section of Agawam. Web: <http://canaryblomstrom.com>. With locations in multiple locations on the east and west coasts, GoodWorks Financial Group serves clients across the United States through its network of common-ownership companies. Web: <https://www.goodworksfinancial.com>.



There are grants available to provide meals for residents throughout the region. SUBMITTED PHOTO

GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club is announces contest winners

AGAWAM – There is nothing like the holidays in New England and what better way to celebrate the season than a Holiday Event while supporting a long running service organization that gives back to the community and beyond. The Agawam Juniors invited Agawam residents to enter this neighborly competition while showing their creativity and having some holiday fun.

Prizes were awarded with Judge’s pick as Best Overall: 61 School Street, Agawam ~ Kim Rafay, if you need homeowner’s

name

Town Favorite by vote: 56 South Street, Agawam ~ Gary/Carmen McNamee, if you need the homeowner’s name

Proceeds from this fundraiser will support ongoing club projects including: scholarships to graduating high school seniors, support of Western MA YWCA, support of the Holyoke Soldier’s Home, and support of our Holiday Baskets Program.

Thank you to all who entered and voted and for your support of the GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club.



56 South Street was the town favorite as voted by residents.



Judges voted 61 School Street had the best overall holiday decorations. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

MORE YEAR IN REVIEW 2020



The Agawam High School ice hockey team held a socially distanced toy drive in early December, keeping alive a longtime tradition.



Sports returned in the fall as Agawam High School’s athletes were able to play a modified season from October to mid-November.



Members of the Agawam High School field hockey team take a day off from practices in October to do some work to help out the Cancer House of Hope. The team was recently praised by the Agawam School Committee.